

REMARKS

In the Restriction Requirement issued on August 28, 2003, it was stated that the application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. More particularly, eleven (11) species were identified. These were: A) Figs. 1a and 1c; B) Fig. 2; C) Figs. 3 and 3A; D) Figs. 4 and 4A; E) Fig. 5; F) Figs. 6a to 6c; G) Fig. 7A; H) Fig. 7B; I) Figs. 8 and 9; J) Figs. 10 and 11; and K) Fig. 12.

Applicant was required to elect a single species to which the claims should be restricted if no generic claim was finally held to be allowable. The reply was also required to identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. It was also stated that no claims were generic to all of the disclosed species.

In reply to the restriction requirement, applicant elects Species F, Figures 6a to 6c, for further prosecution herein. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims, namely, independent claim 24 and its dependent claims 3, 5, 6, 12-16 and 25-31 and independent claim 32 and its dependent claims 33-41 read on Species F.

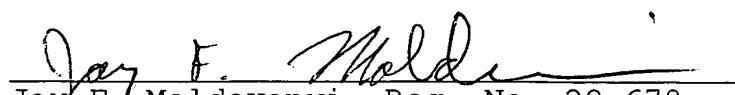
However, applicant also notes that any of the link members shown in Figures 8-12, i.e., Species I, J and K, may be employed in a stent structure such as shown in Species F, Figs. 6a to 6c. In other words, the linked mesh shown in Species F may be made from linked wire members that are of the types shown in Figures 8-12, i.e., Species I, J and K. Similarly, the use of sensors may be implemented with any of the species. For example, Figure 7B discloses the use of the species of Figures 6a-6c with the addition of a sensor system connected therearound. Thus, species F of Figures 6a to 6c is a sub-combination, namely, a stent; and the species H of

Figure 7B is the combination, namely, a stent and sensor system.

Therefore, certain of the dependent claims presented herewith pertain to these additional species. It is respectfully submitted that all currently pending claims, namely, claims 3, 5, 6, 12-16 and 24-41 should be examined.

Respectfully submitted,

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